

*To his Excellency the Governor of the State of Louisiana and Commander in Chief of the Militia.*

THE undersigned members of the general assembly seeing with regret the resistance made by the officers attached to the first militia brigade, to the requisition made by the president of the United States, thro' brigadier general Flournoy, commanding the seventh military district, carrying with it a total disregard to subordination without which anarchy and confusion must necessarily result, the safety of the state put in jeopardy, and every tie by which rational government is sustained dissolved, feel it their duty to observe to your excellency that unless the execution of the orders issued by the commander in chief be not enforced agreeably to the laws from which they emanated, a great disparity of service must inevitably devolve on the militia residing without the limits of the first brigade; a thing never anticipated, and equally subversive of the plainest principles of our constitution. The evils to which conduct of this kind would lead are thought unnecessary to detail, as your excellency must be in entire possession of them.

The undersigned being also convinced that the protection of the most important section of the state was a primary consideration with the executive of the United States in making this requisition; and that the city of New-Orleans was this section; and finding that in this city resistance to the requisition is only made, do conceive it their duty, as well for the future protection of the state as for present example, to recommend to your excellency the entire rescission of the orders in relation to this requisition, or their equal and prompt execution. The motives which guide the undersigned in this recommendation, flow from the peculiar nature of the case, connected with your recent orders, by which we find, and with deep regret, that a large portion of this call and as it appears, the only efficient one, is to be taken from the interior of the state, for the defence of New Orleans, leaving unprotected a large and important tract of country equally exposed, while the militia of this city openly avow their intentions of disobedience to your orders, and consequently protection to their own fire sides.

*New Orleans, 22th January, 1812.*

*Philemon Thomas,  
Stephen A. Hopkins  
Robert McCausland  
David B. Morgan  
Philips Caldwell  
Joshua Baker  
John Thompson  
John D. Smith  
Charles Bushnell  
James Carpenter  
Thomas F. Oliver  
John Scott  
Samuel H. Harper  
John Hughes  
George Hamilton  
H. Dent  
N. Kemper  
Robert Tate  
C. Terry  
Philip Hicky.*

New-Orleans, February 4, 1814.

GENTLEMEN,

THE communication you made me under date of the 24th ultimo, commanded my most deliberate and respectful consideration. The opposition of several militia corps to the late 'requisition' of brigadier gen. Flournoy, [acting under the authority of the president] has been to me cause of great concern. The immediate effects of such '*insubordination*,' must be regretted by all, who take an interest in the preservation of good order; no can those who feel for the security of the state reflect on the results to which it may lead without much anxiety. Firmly persuaded of the legality of the *requisition*, a sense of duty left me no alternative, and knowing that *its* sole object was the security of Louisiana, I issued the orders of the 25th December, in full confidence, that they would receive the willing support of my fellow citizens. Within the city of New Orleans, (a few companies only excepted, whose conduct met my highest approbation,) I witnessed a disposition, the contrary of what was anticipated; but I learn with much satisfaction, that in most of the interior counties, my just expectations have been realized. So laudable an example of obedience to the law, will, I trust, be attended with the most beneficial effects, and when the citizens from the country, shall be seen in arms, I cherish a hope that the city corps will retrace their steps, and willingly participate in such duties, fatigues and dangers as shall be necessary, for the present and future safety of this capital. You advise, gentlemen, that the orders of the 25th of December, be wholly recalled, or fully and promptly enforced. I cannot consistent with my duty do the one; but I shall not be wanting in exertions to effect the other: I have already expressed my opinion as to the legality of the requisition, nor have I any doubt as to its expediency; hence my obedience, and if the orders of the president cannot be met in whole, I shall take pleasure in executing them, as far as may be in my power. But in causing the laws to be executed, I must look to the people for aid. In countries where men govern, the energies of the magistrate alone, give tone and character to the government. But where the laws rule, their supremacy cannot be maintained without the co-operation of the people. Had the senate and house of representatives in the view they have taken of the requisition, thought proper to approve it; this co-operation, would, in the case before us probably have been more general. But it does not become me to make any comments on the course pursued by the two houses of the general assembly, and I can only express my regret, that on an occasion so interesting to the state, I should find myself without the benefit of their support. I nevertheless shall be diligent in the discharge of my duty, in the way my judgment dictates, and will zealously endeavor to array the auxiliary force required. The primary object of this force, is as you suppose, gentlemen, the protection of New Orleans. Not a man is designed to be marched without the limits of the state, and altho' the detachment has been detailed for a tour of six months, unless sooner discharged, I am authorised to add, that in April next, their further services will be dispensed with, unless indeed in the opinion of the commanding general, the state should still be menaced with dangers. I am well aware of the exposed situation of several of the interior counties, and that their means of local defence, will be diminished by ordering the detached militia to New Orleans. But I beg you, gentlemen, to recollect, that *New Orleans is to Louisiana, what the heart is to the human body; if the city falls, the whole state is vitally affected.* But if all attempts of the enemy against New Orleans should be repelled, the interior of Louisiana, will have little to apprehend from without.

I tender to you, gentlemen, the assurances of my great respect and sincere esteem.

William C. C. Claiborne.